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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,583	03/01/2002	Junshin Sakamoto	H07-139239M/NHK	8979
7590	12/08/2003			
EXAMINER				
LUU, THANH X				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2878				

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/085,583	SAKAMOTO, JUNSHIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thanh X Luu	2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 72002 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, "the plural beams" lacks proper antecedent basis. Examiner recommends using consistent terminology. Further, "the first writing position" lacks proper antecedent basis. In addition, it is unclear in its given context what "a detector for detecting the laser beams for determining the first writing position on the photoconductor of the laser beams" means.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, "the semiconductor laser beams", "the first row", "the plurality-th row", "the second or subsequent row", "the beam", "the signal", and "the above" lack proper antecedent basis. Further, it is unclear in its given context what "plurality-th row" means. Also, it is unclear in its given context how "a signal" is detected "by a scanning direction beam." In addition, it is unclear in its given context what "a detector for detecting the laser beams for determining the first writing position on the photoconductor of the laser beams" means. Since it is unclear what Applicant has intended to claim, claims 6 and 7 have not been examined on its merits.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, "the number of beams of the sub-scanning direction" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, the claims are identical. Further, it is unclear in its given context what "is installed in a position on beam scanning and other than on a scanning line..." means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. Patent 5,786,594).

Regarding claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 9, Ito et al. disclose (see Figure 21) a two-dimensional beam writing position detecting device, comprising: an optical system for scanning on a photoconductor (see Figure 11A) by laser beams emitted from a semiconductor laser to form an electrostatic latent image and arranging a plurality of the laser beams (LS1-LS3) in two dimensions and slantly scanning each of the laser beams at a predetermined angle; and a detector (66) for detecting the laser beams, wherein a longitudinal direction of a beam light receiving surface (SL2) of the detecting device inclines at substantially the same angle as the slant angle (see Figure 21) as claimed. Ito et al. also (see Figure 21) disclose the length as claimed. In addition, Ito et al. disclose (see Figure 21) the detecting device is partitioned, formed by a slit and a photodetector. Ito et al. further disclose (see Figure 11A) an image forming apparatus

having the detecting device installed on other than a scanning line of the photoconductor.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh X. Luu whose telephone number is (703) 305-0539. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta, can be reached on (703) 308-4852. The fax phone number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

txl
November 26, 2003



Thanh X. Luu
Patent Examiner